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Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Department of Health and Human Services
Attn: Part 34 NPRM Comments
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The Brazilian Government would like to express strong support to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) proposed rule that removes Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Infection from definition of Communicable Disease of Public Health Significance (42 CFR Part 34).

On the context of mobility and migration, HIV-related restrictions on entry, stay and residence cause a direct impact on countries of origin and destiny, specially on stigma and discrimination, urging governments on developing policies based on full respect for the dignity, human rights and fundamental freedoms of all persons, including people living with HIV/AIDS.

In reference to the requested comments on this proposal, it would be interesting, in this opportunity, to recall the Brazilian experience, which may bring some light to the uncertainties discussed in the mentioned proposal.

The Brazilian experience shows that even though the universal access to the antiretroviral therapy has been offered since 1996 - we were the first country in Latin America to provide antiretroviral to people living with HIV, and although the Brazilian territory has a large open border, our health system was not burden by people seeking for treatment. This means that there is no proved relation between the policy itself and the entrance of people living with HIV in our country.

For instance, more than 190 million people live in Brazil. Around 870 thousand of them came from different countries, representing 0,45% of the total population, including the USA (28 thousands Americans are in legal situation). The estimative says that approximately 600 thousand people live with HIV in Brazil, 0,3% of them are foreign people in use of ARV Therapy, who have full access to the public health system.

We have learned that the more we inform people about HIV transmission, the ways of prevention, diagnosis and treatment, the more people voluntary tested and adherent to treatment we have, contributing directly to bar the spread of the epidemic.

In this way, we believe that the CDC proposal should not only remove Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Infection from definition of Communicable Disease of Public Health Significance, but also eliminate all references to serologic testing for HIV infection on the scope of any medical examination for U.S. Immigration purposes. Furthermore, we would like to suggest that this initiative should be extended to other sexual transmissible diseases as well, such as syphilis for example.

The proposed rule is aligned to the international commitment to fighting HIV and represents a significant improvement to the global efforts on the issue. For the reasons mentioned above, we strongly support the CDC proposal.

Yours sincerely,